

# Maine Wild Blueberries

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*A field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
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**NEW ENGLAND  
Agricultural  
Statistics**

22 Bridge St. 3rd Floor  
P.O. Box 1444  
Concord, NH 03302



Gary R. Keough, Director

Phone: 603-224-9639

Fax: 603-225-1434

[www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)

[nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov)

***A special "THANK YOU" goes to the approximately 400 Maine Wild Blueberry growers and processors who have helped us by completing the wild blueberry surveys during May and July.***

## MAINE'S WILD BLUEBERRY CROP EXPECTED TO BE ABOVE AVERAGE

Maine's 2006 wild blueberry (lowbush) crop is expected to total 75.0 million pounds, based on growers reported conditions of the crop through mid-July. If realized, this forecast places expected production 26 percent above last year's output of 59.6 million pounds, and 16 percent above the five year average of 64.7 million pounds.

The majority of Maine's wild blueberry growers reported little winter damage. Although snow cover was below normal across much of Maine, mild winter temperatures prevented significant winter injury to wild blueberry fields. A number of growers reported finding mummyberry disease in their fields. The majority of growers who completed the survey indicated this year's bloom was above average. However, heavy rain showers in May and June impeded pollination and

probably reduced the potential size of this year's crop. Timely rain showers in July helped increase berry size. There were a few reports of hail storm damage in some fields during July. The majority of Maine's wild blueberry growers who responded to our survey, expected their yield to increase significantly with respect to the previous two years.

**2005 Prices Revised:** The average price per pound for Maine wild blueberries sold for processing in 2005 was 65 cents, a 20 cent increase over a year earlier. The average fresh market price per pound for Maine wild blueberries was \$1.60 in 2005, 25 cents higher than in 2004. The total value of Maine's 2005 wild blueberry crop (fresh and processed) was placed at \$39.0 million, an increase of 86 percent from the 2004 value, due to increases in price and production.

**MAINE WILD BLUEBERRIES: Production and Value, 1997 – 2006**

Year	Total Production	All Price Per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Blueberries <sup>2/</sup>			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Cents	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Cents	1,000 Dollars
1997 <sup>1/</sup>	73,816	43	31,622	276	--	--	73,540	43	31,622
1998	62,981	46	29,166	360	1.00	360	62,621	46	28,806
1999	66,102	51	33,889	300	1.10	330	65,802	51	33,559
2000	110,990	40	44,732	420	1.20	504	110,570	40	44,228
2001	75,200	31	22,945	350	1.40	490	74,850	30	22,455
2002	62,400	29	17,860	400	1.25	500	62,000	28	17,360
2003	80,400	33	26,880	400	1.20	480	80,000	33	26,400
2004	46,000	46	20,970	300	1.35	405	45,700	45	20,565
2005	59,550	66	39,040	350	1.60	560	59,200	65	38,480
2006 <sup>3/</sup>	75,000								

<sup>1/</sup> All Price per Pound and Total Value of Production for 1997 does not include fresh market blueberries.

<sup>2/</sup> Fresh Blueberry Price per Pound and Value of Production are not available before 1998.

<sup>3/</sup> Current year production forecast is based on growers' assessments as of mid-July.

*The wild blueberry estimating program is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Maine Department of Agriculture as a service to growers and others in the industry. The next Maine Wild Blueberries report will be published and available on the Internet at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/nh/> in late January 2007. It will contain the final production and preliminary price statistics for the 2006 crop as collected by the Maine Department of Agriculture.*

## Cultivated Blueberries: Preliminary Price and Value, Selected States and United States, 2005 Crop

State	Total Utilized Production	All Price per Pound	Total Value of Production	Fresh Blueberries			Blueberries for Processing		
				Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production
	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	1,000 Lbs	Dollars	1,000 Dollars
Alabama <sup>1/</sup>	520	0.906	471	520	0.906	471			
Arkansas <sup>1/</sup>	1,350	1.740	2,349	1,350	1.740	2,349			
California <sup>1/</sup>	9,100	4.460	40,583	9,100	4.460	40,583			
Florida <sup>1/</sup>	5,200	6.300	32,760	5,200	6.300	32,760			
Georgia	26,000	1.220	31,820	12,000	1.730	20,760	14,000	0.790	11,060
Indiana	3,500	1.220	4,275	2,000	1.410	2,820	1,500	0.970	1,455
Michigan	66,000	1.270	83,500	25,000	1.700	42,500	41,000	1.000	41,000
New Jersey	45,000	1.230	55,470	33,000	1.310	43,230	12,000	1.020	12,240
New York	1,400	1.400	1,963	1,350	1.420	1,917	50	0.920	46
North Carolina	26,000	1.410	36,702	16,100	1.800	28,980	9,900	0.780	7,722
Oregon	34,500	0.964	33,258	13,800	1.210	16,698	20,700	0.800	16,560
Washington	19,600	0.978	19,160	3,900	1.330	5,187	15,700	0.890	13,973
UNITED STATES	238,170	1.440	342,311	123,100	1.930	237,595	115,070	0.910	104,716

<sup>1/</sup> Small quantities of processed blueberries are included in fresh to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

SOURCE: *Noncitrus Fruits and Nuts – 2005 Summary*, 3:00 pm July 6, 2006, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA

**Gary R. Keough**, *Director*  
**Dave Mikelson**, *Statistician*

**Gerald D. Tillman**, *Deputy Director*  
**Deirdre Davis**, *Statistical Assistant*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
POST OFFICE BOX 1444  
CONCORD, NH 03302-1444  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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